

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 18273 221020Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /081 W
-----123936 221157Z /10
R 220850Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8199

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 18273

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB IN
SUBJECT: STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INDEFINITE STRIKE:
NO SIGN OF AN EARLY SETTLEMENT

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA MADRAS FROM
BOMBAY DEC 21 IS REPEATED

QUOTE
UNCLAS BOMBAY 3025

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IN
SUBJ: STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INDEFINITE STRIKE: NO SIGN
OF AN EARLY SETTLEMENT

REF: BOMBAY 2971

1. AT THE END OF ITS FIRST WEEK THE STRIKE OF GOM EMPLOYEES
CONTINUES WITH NO SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT. THE CHIEF MINISTER
MAINTAINS HIS POSITION THAT NO TALKS WOULD BE HELD PRIOR TO
STRIKE WITHDRAWAL , AND REPORTEDLY WARNED THE STRIKING
EMPLOYEES IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO RESUME DUTIES WITHIN THE
NEXT FOUR DAYS, OTHERWISE REPLACEMENTS WOULD BE RECRUITED.
THE EMPLOYEES PLAN TO STAY OUT TILL THEIR DEMANDS ARE MET.
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MOST SOURCES EXPECT THE STRIKE TO LAST AT LEAST A MONTH.

2. MEANWHILE, THE PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AGREED TO STRIKERS
DEMAND OF A DEARNESS ALLOWANCE ON PAR WITH CENTRAL RATES
(EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 1977, AT AN ANNUAL COST OF RS.4.4
MILLION TO THE CORPORATION.) THESE 7,000 EMPLOYEES RESUMED
WORK DECEMBER 19, WITH THE PROVISION THAT IF THE GOM RECRUITS

REPLACEMENTS FOR STRIKERS THEY WILL AGAIN GO OUT.

3. COMMENT: ON DECEMBER 17 THE MAHARASHTRA INTUC WORKING COMMITTEE TOOK A "NONPARTISAN" STAND, APPEALING TO THE CHIEF MINISTER NOT TO RECRUIT FRESH HANDS, AND TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS. SIMULTANEOUSLY THE COMMITTEE URGED THE STRIKERS TO EXEMPT ESSENTIAL SERVICES (HOSPITALS, DAIRIES, ETC. IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

4. H.N. TRIVEDI, JANATA MLA, BUT STILL A LEADING INTUC OFFICIAL, TOLD CONGEN THAT ALTHOUGH THE STATE JANATA UNIT OFFERED FULL "POLITICAL SUPPORT" TO THE STRIKING EMPLOYEES, STRIKE LEADER R.G. KARNIK HAD REFUSED THE OFFER TO "POLITICIZE" THE DISPUTE. KARNIK SAYS HE IS DETERMINED TO SETTLE THE ISSUE ONLY THROUGH DIRECT TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND WITHOUT ANY OUTSIDE ARBITRATORS OR MEDIATORS. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE TIMING OF THE STRIKE (I.E. JUST ABOUT EIGHT WEEKS PRIOR TO THE STATE ELECTIONS), KARNIK'S DENIAL OF ANY "POLITICAL MOTIVE" BEHIND THE STRIKE IS SUSPECT.

5. STATE GOVERNMENT PAPER WORK OPERATIONS ASIDE, THE STRIKE IS AFFECTING MAINLY THE POOR ELEMENTS. MILK IS BECOMING SCARCER IN CITIES (MILK PRICE IN PRIVATE DAIRIES SHOT UP BY 50 PERCENT), GARBAGE IS ACCUMULATING IN MUNICIPAL TOWNS, AND GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO ADMIT EVEN "EMERGENCY" CASES. THE POORER SECTIONS CAN ONLY AFFORD THE CHEAPER
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GOVERNMENT MILK. FOR THEM IT NOW MEANS "ENDLESS WAIT AND DEJECTION" AS THE GOVERNMENT MILK WAGONS EITHER COME VERY LATE OR DO NOT TURN UP AT ALL. ROSENTHAL

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: ELAB, IN, STATE
To: STATE
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